

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05023 171950Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02
/052 W

-----180517Z 045792 /12

R 171730Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9883
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 05023

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS:ELAB,BE
SUBJECT: SOCIALIST FAMILY SQUABBLE,FGTB VS.PSB

SUMMARY:WHAT BEGAN LAST APRIL AS A MILD FAMILY TIFF BETWEEN
SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS AND FGTB (SOCIALIST)TRADE UNIONISTS
AT LIEGE HAS ESCALATED INTO AN EMBARRASSING PUBLIC CONFRONTATION
PARTY LEADERS (ENGAGED IN GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS)STRIVING TO
LOOK RESPONSIBLE,UNION LEADERS ZEALOUSLY INDEPENDENT.A
GENERAL SHUTDOWN OF UTILITIES IN LIEGE,ALREADY INCONVENIENCED
BY PARTIAL SHUTDOWNS,MAY BE THE RESULT.END SUMMARY.

1.ON MAY 16 GAS,WATER AND ELECTRICITY WORKERS IN GREATER
LIEGE VOTED BY LARGE MAJORITIES FOR A GENERAL SHUTDOWN OF
THE REGION'S UTILITIES. THIS ACTION
FOLLOWED A SERIES OF PARTIAL SHUTDOWNS IN PROGRESS SINCE APRIL 4.
THE WORKERS ARE STRIKING IN SUPPORT OF DEMANDS FOR AN IMMEDIATE
7 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE AND REDUCTION OF THE WORK WEEK FROM 39
TO 38 HOURS.

SPOKESMEN FOR THE WORKERS CLAIM THAT BOTH THE WAGE
INCREASE AND THE WORK WEEK REDUCTION WERE PART OF A THREE-
YEAR AGREEMENT WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THEK

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05023 171950Z

MUNICIPALLY-OWNED AND OPERATED SERVICES.THE DECISION
INFAVOR OF A GENERAL SHUTDOWN CAME AFTER REJECTION OF
A MANAGEMENT OFFER OF A 38- HOUR WEEK FROM JANUARY 1,
A THREE PERCENT WAGE HIKE FROM JULY 1977,AND A DOLS 140
BONUS IN JULY 1978.THIS OFFER WHICH,ACCORDING TO
WORKER SPOKESMEN MIGHT HAVE SERVED AS A BASIS FOR
NEGOTIATION,WAS REJECTED BECAUSE IT WAS

ALLEGEDLY PUT AS AN "ULTIMATUM"..

2.AN INTERESTING FEATURE OF THE STRIKE IS THAT IT
OPPOSES THE SOCIALIST (PSB)MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES OF
LIEGE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS FEDERATION OF
THE SOCIALIST TRADE UNION,THE FGTB.EMBARRASSED BY
CHARGES OF LOW WAGES (SOME 15 PERCENT - 20 PERCENT LOWER THAN IN
THE PRIVATE SECTOR)AND REPORTED ACTS OF SABOTAGE,THE
SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERSHIP TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO
BULLY THE WORKERS INTO SUBMISSION.ONE SUCH ATTEMPT
WAS SOCIALIST PARTY CO-PRESIDENT ANDRE COOLS'MAY 1
APPEARANCE AT LIEGE WHERE HE CHARGED THE WORKERS WITH
IRRESPONSIBILITY ,SELFISHNESS,AND " THE DESIRE FOR
EASY VICTORIES FOR WHICH,FINALLY,THE SOCIALIST PARTY
WOULD HAVE TO PAY. " AT THESE WORKDS,FGTB REGIONAL SECRETARY
JACQUES YERNA WALKED OUT OF THE MAY DAY RALLY.
RENNER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, SOCIALISM, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR STRIKES, MAY DAY, POLITIC AL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE05023
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770176-0338
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770550/aaaabrev.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9c37be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2496639
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOCIALIST FAMILY SQUABBLE,FGTB VS.PSB SUMMARY:WHAT BEGAN LAST APRIL AS A MILD FAMILY TIFF BETWEEN SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS AND FGTB (SOCIALIST)TRADE
TAGS: ELAB, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9c37be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

